

# MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

## May 4, 2006 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT 1<sup>st</sup> floor auditorium

Meeting was called to order at 1:40 pm by Chairman George Phillips.

### Commission Members Present:

MS Department of Public Safety	George Phillips
MS Department of Corrections	Chris Epps
MS Association of Fire Chiefs	Tom Lariviere
MS Association of Police Chiefs	Tommy Moffett
MS Department of Environmental Quality	Clovis Reed
MS Department of Information Technology Services	David Litchliter
MS Department of Transportation	Willie Huff
MS Emergency Management Agency	Tom McAllister
MS Highway Patrol	Michael Berthay
MS Municipal League	Nick Wilson (for Gene McGee)
MS Sheriffs' Association	James Newman
MS Supervisors Association	Joel Yelverton
SafeCity Initiative	Mark McCreery
MS Department of Health	Brian Amy
MS Department of Homeland Security	Ed Worthington

### Advisory Members Present:

Representative Clayton Smith	Senator Tom King
Representative Tyrone Ellis	Senator Jack Gordon
Representative Clayton Smith	
Representative Johnny Stringer	

Chairman George Phillips called the meeting to order at 1:40 pm. Chairman Phillips asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Chris Epps made the motion, and it was seconded by David Litchliter. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Joel Yelverton reported for the Rules Committee. Mississippi State University requested that the Commission approve a purchase of cellular equipment with a cost not to exceed \$320,000. This purchase would include a one-year contract with Cellular South, and products would be purchased using the EPL. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Nick Wilson and was unanimously approved by the full Commission.

Mr. Yelverton explained a request for approval from the E911 Commission of Hancock County. Several members of the E911 Commission talked about the specifics of their request. Three tower sites in Hancock County need to be "hardened" so they can survive the upcoming hurricane season. Trent Farve, attorney for the E911 Commission, explained that they have a one year lease with Motorola for service. At the end of this lease, the equipment will belong to the E911 Commission. The equipment is currently housed in trailers, which will not survive a storm. The cost of hardening the sites and providing for a redundant microwave backbone will

be \$2.5 million. Chairman Phillips questioned the source of funding. It was explained that \$1.5 million would come from a bond issue, but repayment after the money is drawn down might be a problem because the bond was authorized in 2005 when Hancock County was in a stronger financial position. Chris Epps questioned the members of the E911 Commission about the consequences of not hardening the tower sites. It was explained that the sites would otherwise be vulnerable during the upcoming hurricane season. David Litchliter questioned whether or not wireless equipment would be purchased. It was stated that no equipment would be purchased. There was a discussion about how the lease would be affected if the sites were made permanent. House Speaker Compretta explained that this project is critical for Hancock County. Mr. Yelverton made a motion to approve the request. The motion was seconded by Tom McAllister and approved by the full Commission.

Clovis Reed reported for the Cellular Committee. He stated that the committee had met twice since the last Commission meeting. ITS is reviewing the draft RFP with their Board and also plans to meet with the legislative leadership and the Advisory Committee prior to release of the RFP. Review of the RFP with the WCC and its subsequent release is currently targeted for the first of the fiscal year 2007

Ed Worthington reported for the Integration Committee. He discussed a software package offered by Homeland Security that graphically displays which agencies can communicate with each other. He stated that this software is free, and the WCC should take advantage of it. Mr. Worthington explained that a manager would be needed to use the software, and he recommended Donald Loper of DPS. Chairman Phillips stated that he would appoint a manager.

Chris Epps reported for the RFP Committee. He stated that the Committee had met to draft responses to vendor questions concerning the RFP. David Litchliter discussed the scope of Phase III of the project. Mr. Litchliter explained that Buford Goff and Associates (BGA) has proposed a fixed cost of \$332,550 for Phase III. ITS will work with BGA to redraft their proposal to include pricing by deliverable.

Representative Tyrone Ellis questioned the level of participation of BGA in the evaluation. Mr. Litchliter explained that BGA would help with clarification, if needed, but that the state's evaluation team would be reviewing and scoring the bid responses.

David Litchliter made a motion that the WCC work with BGA on their proposal, which is not to exceed \$332,550. Chris Epps seconded the motion, and it was approved by the Commission.

Willie Huff reported for the Interoperability Committee. He stated that many of the agencies on the coast are purchasing satellite phones to supplement their current systems. Mr. Huff stated that more frequencies have been requested, and he should know more about that soon. He requested that agencies send contact information and a list of frequencies to him. Chairman Phillips explained that satellite systems are the only truly survivable systems, but they are not practical for everyday use. There was a discussion of whether or not the satellite systems would be interoperable. Mr. Huff stated that they would be.

There was no report of old or new business.

The next meeting will be June 1, 2006, in the MDOT Auditorium.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 pm.